

- For those with fruit (mango, avocado and orange) orchards or bananas, we advise that they prune, cut & burn or bury fruit stalks, add manure and construct *negarims* and *semi-circular bunds* around them to harvest water, before the start of the season
- Farmers are advised to watch out for aphids (*Win*) especially in cowpea and fruit trees; shoot fly and stalk borers in sorghum; Anthracnose in beans; scab (*Kikaa*) and desert locusts and report such outbreaks to agricultural extension officers
- Livestock farmers are advised to drain their livestock sheds and repair leaking ones to control foot rot incidences. They are also encouraged to destock to minimize livestock mortality due to scarcity of pastures and fodder.
- Livestock farmers are advised to look out for Lumpy Skin (*Makundu*) and Foot and Mouth (*Muthingithu*) Diseases and report such outbreaks to the nearest agricultural extension office.
- Poultry farmers should look out for viral diseases, especially the Newcastle Disease (NCD), and vaccinate their birds in time
- Farmers are encouraged to earth-up existing cassava and sweet potato crops instead of establishing new crops. They are also encouraged to diversify crops and farm enterprises to reduce risk.
- Rather than establish a new sorghum crop, farmers are encouraged to ratoon last season's crop, at a height of 1.5 cm above the ground
- Regular harvesting, baling and storage of grass/pasture for later use is strongly recommended

Additional Information

Following a fairly successful March-April-May (MAM) 2020 season, farmers are advised to dry their grain to 13.5% moisture content before storing it to avoid infestation by aflatoxin-producing fungi. Further, they are advised to watch out for storage pests and take appropriate control measures. Finally, they are encouraged to use certified seeds from reputable sources.

Important Note

The information provided here is general information based on the October-November-December (OND) 2020 seasonal forecast issued by the Kenya Meteorological Department (KMD).

The information should be used in conjunction with the forecast updates issued by KMD and technical advice provided by the nearest agricultural extension office.

This advisory is a collaborative effort of the following institutions



Kenya Agricultural and Livestock Research Organization



University of Embu



Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock Development, Fisheries and Cooperatives



KiMI Kilimo Media International



Biovision Africa Trust

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CRDI



WEATHER-BASED AGRO-ADVISORY FOR MAKUENI COUNTY

OCTOBER-NOVEMBER-DECEMBER

2020

About this advisory

This advisory was developed on 25th September 2020 by a team of subject matter specialists from Kenya Agricultural and Livestock Research Organization (KALRO), University of Embu (UoE), Biovision Africa Trust, Kilimo Media International (KIMI) and the Ministry of Agric., Fisheries, Livestock Development and Cooperatives with financial support from Canada's International Development Research Centre (IDRC) through the project “Scaling-up Pathways of Last Mile Climate Information Services for Community Resilience in Kenya and Uganda”

The advisory is mainly aimed at supporting farm level decision making in Makueni County in planning agricultural activities for the October-November-December 2020 Rain Season. Application of this advisory to other areas will depend on similarities in soil and climatic conditions of such places with those of Makueni County.

Performance of the March-May 2020 Rain Season

Like the rest of the country, Makueni County experienced early on-set of the March-April-May rains. Crop performance, especially of pigeonpea, was exceptionally good. Pastures and fodder also established very well.

Outlook for October–December 2020

- Makueni County and its environs are expected to receive below normal (depressed) rainfall
- Makueni County is expected to realize the onset between the fourth week of October and the first week of November 2020 and cessation in the third to fourth week of December 2020
- The October to December 2020 rainfall is predicted to be poorly distributed
- The peak of the rains is expected to be in the month of

Implications of the Forecast on Agriculture

Based on the above outlook:

- Farmers are advised to plant crops of their choice at the earliest opportunity by dry planting after preparing the farm in the third week of October 2020
- They are advised to repair their terraces and desilt existing dams and water pans before the on-set of the rains
- Farmers are encouraged to plant the following crops:

Target Area	Crop	Recommended Variety	Correct Spacing
U p p e r z o n e s (<i>Mbooni, Tulimani, Kitbungo, Kitundu, Upper Ukia, Kilungu, Ilima, Upper Kee, Mukaa & Upper Mbitini</i>)	Beans (<i>Mboosa</i>)	KAT X69, KAT X56, Nyota & KAT Bean1	45cm x 20cm Seed rate: 20 kg/acre
	Pigeonpea (<i>Nzau</i>)	Mbaazi II	100cm x50cm Seed rate: 8 kg/acre
	Sorghum (<i>Munya</i>)	Kari Mtama 1, Gadam & Kamani (KM32)	75cm x 20cm By drilling Seed rate: 4 kg/acre
	Finger millet (<i>Mwee</i>)	KAT FM1	60cm x 15cm By drilling Seed rate: 4 kg/acre
	Cow peas (<i>Nthooko</i>)	M66 & KVV 27-1	60cm x 20cm Seed rate: 8 kg/acre
	Green grams (<i>Ndengu</i>)	N26 & Karembo	60cm x 20cm Seed rate: 4 kg/acre
	Dolichos (<i>Mbumbu</i>)	DL 1002	100 cm x 50cm Seed rate: 5kg/acre
	African leafy vegetables	Amaranth (<i>Mbicha</i>) – KAT Veg1	75cm x 30cm By drilling
		TerereSmart & KATGOLD	90cm & 30cm By drilling
		Managu	60cm x 20cm By drilling
Pasture grasses (<i>Nyeki</i>)	Ngootya, Kilili, Mbeetwa, Nthata kivumbu & Nguu	Broadcasting seed rate: 5 kg per acre	
Mid-zones (<i>Wote, Nzju, Kikumini, Muvau, Nzau, Mbitini, Kilili, Emali, Kalama, Mulala, Kasikeu, Kiima Kiu, Kalanzoni, Ukia, Kee, Kaka, Waia and Kisanu/Kiteta</i>)	Beans (<i>Mboosa</i>)	KAT Bean1, KAT X56, Nyota, KAT Bean 9 & Katram	45cm x 20cm Seed rate: 20kg/acre
	Green grams (<i>Ndengu</i>)	N26, Karembo & Biashara	60cm x 20cm Seed rate: 4 kg/acre
	Cowpea (<i>Nthooko</i>)	M66, K80, & KVV 27-1	60cm x 20cm Seed rate: 8 kg/acre
	Dolichos (<i>Mbumbu</i>)	DL 1002	50cm x 50cm
	Finger millet (<i>Wimbi</i>)	KAT FM-1	30cm x10cm
	Pigeonpea (<i>Nzau</i>)	Mbaazi II	100cmx 50cm Seed rate: 8 kg/acre

Target Area	Crop	Recommended Variety	Correct Spacing
Mid-zones (<i>Wote, Nzju, Kikumini, Muvau, Nzau, Mbitini, Kilili, Emali, Kalama, Mulala, Kasikeu, Kiima Kiu, Kalanzoni, Ukia, Kee, Kaka, Waia and Kisanu/Kiteta</i>)	Pearl millet (<i>Mwee</i>)	KAT PM 1 KAT PM 3	Sole at 60cm x 15cm & 120cm x 15cm when inter-cropped with a row of legume
	Sorghum (<i>Munya</i>)	Gadam, Seredo, Serena KARI Mtama 1	Sole at 60cm x 20cm & 120cmx15cm intercropped with a row of legume
	Cotton (<i>Vamba</i>)	Bt Cotton & Hart 89	60cm x 60cm Seed rate: 25 kg/acre
	Pasture grasses (<i>Nyeki</i>)	<i>Mbeetwa, Nthata kivumbu, Nguu & Kilili</i>	Broadcasting Seed rate: 5 kg/acre
Lower zones (<i>Kalawa, Kathonzveni, Mavindini, Kitise/Kitbuki, Makindu, Nguumo, Kikumbulyu North, Kikumbulyu South, Thange, Masongaleni, Mtiito Andei & Ivingoni/Nzambani</i>)	Green grams (<i>Ndakithi, Ndengu</i>)	N26, KS20, Biashara & Karembo	60cm x 20cm Seed rate: 4 kg/acre
	Cowpeas (<i>Nthooko</i>)	KVV27-1 & K80	60cm x 20cm Seed rate: 8 kg/acre
	Pigeonpea (<i>Nzau</i>)	KAT 60/8 Mbaazi II	75cm x 50cm 100cm x 50cm Seed rate: 8 kg/acre
	Dolichos (<i>Mbumbu</i>)	DL 1002	100cm x 50cm Seed rate: 5kg/acre
	Finger millet (<i>wimbi</i>)	KAT FM-1	30cm x 10cm Seed rate: 4 kg/acre
	Pearl millet (<i>Mwee</i>)	KAT PM 1 &3	S o l e a t 60cm x 15cm & 120cmx 15cm when inter-cropped with a row of legume
Lower zones	Sorghum (<i>Munya</i>)	Gadam, Seredo	Sole at 60cm x 20cm & 120cm x 15cm when inter-cropped with a row of legume
	Cotton (<i>Vamba</i>)	Bt Cotton & Hart 89	60cm x 60cm Seed rate: 25 kg/acre
	Pasture grasses (<i>Nyeki</i>)	<i>Mbeetwa, Nthata kivumbu, Nguu & Kilili</i>	Broadcasting Seed rate: 5 kg/acre